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DARLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1945

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BY

C.A. O'NEILL, M.B., CH.B., B.A.O.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARLINGTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the privilege of presenting to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health upon the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Darlington Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

It is with much satisfaction I have to report that from a perusal of the annual reports over the past 10 years I find there has been no deterioration in the health of the District, and no serious epidemics have occurred during the 6 years of war, despite the privations, worries, and nervous strain of that time.

The termination of the War in Europe and the Middle East and the demobilisation of part of the Armed Forces has caused the possibility of spread of infectious disease from other countries to our villages and towns. During the year one contract of a Small pox case arrived in the district, this was notified to me and examined: no case of Smallpox was reported.

It is sincerely hoped that with the advent of peace, the schemes of housing, water supply and sewage disposal can be commenced without delay, at present they are being considerably affected by the acute shortage of materials.

My grateful thanks are due to the assistance afforded by the staff of the department for their diligence in dealing with the mass of additional work placed upon them, I have to acknowledge the courtesy extended to me by all Members of the Council with whom I have to deal. I would also like to express my appreciation of the personnel of the A.R.P., Rescue Squads, First Aid Parties, etc., for their untiring efforts during the war years and to thank them for their whole hearted co-operation during those strenuous times.

I am, Gentlemen,

[signature]

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Rural District in Acres.....	45,064
Resident Population.....	8,910
Number of Inhabited Houses.....	2,613
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£332.5.1.
Rateable value at 1st April, 1945.....	£79721.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

The chief industries are Agriculture, Lime Burning, and General Quarrying. Many of the population are engaged in works in the Borough of Darlington, the Urban District of Shildon and The Rural District of Stockton.

I am pleased to note that it is proposed to utilise the large munition works at Aycliffe for light industries, and Messrs. Crossley & Sons, propose to open a new factory for the production of bricks at Hurworth. These should tend to absorb a considerable amount of labour both male and female made redundant by the closing down of the N.O.F. at Aycliffe. The unemployment figures have slightly increased since last year, owing to the alteration in social conditions as above stated.

STATISTICS
BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE

The number of Live Births in the District was 155 The sex legitimacy classification is drawn thus:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	74	68	142
Illegitimate	10	3	13

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 17.39 as compared with a rate of 12.26 last year. The rate for England and Wales is 16.1.

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	--	1
Illegitimate	--	--	--

The rate per 1,000 of the population is 0.22 as compared with 0.54 last year, and a rate of 0.46 for England and Wales.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was 1 death from Maternal Causes, the rate being .021 (No change)

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age were as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	1	-	1

The infantile mortality rate is 45. (No change)

The rate for England and Wales is 46

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE

During 1945 there were 122 deaths registered, 60 male and 62 female. The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 13.69 which compares with a death rate of 12.04 for 1944 and a rate of 11.4 for England and Wales.

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
Measles	1	-
Influenza	-	-
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	-	-
Cancer (all forms)	8	9
Diabetes	1	-
Intracranial Vascular lesions	3	7
Heart Disease	21	19
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	3	2
Bronchitis	-	3
Pneumonia	1	-
Other Respiratory Duseases	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach	-	-
Appendicitis	-	2
Other Digestive Diseases	4	-
Nephritis	3	3
Maternal Causes	-	1
Premature Birth	-	1
Congenital Malformation, Infantile Diseases	1	2
Suicide	-	1
Road Traffic Accidents.	3	-
Other Violent Causes	1	2
All Other Causes	8	9

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

CIVILIAN CASES NOTIFIED.

Age	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Erysipelas		Measles		Acute Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	11	-	-	-	-
3	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	15	14	-	-	-	-
5	6	5	1	2	-	6	-	-	31	29	-	-	-	-
10	1	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	7	1	3	-	-
15	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 and over.	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Totals	10.	12	1.	2	4.	8	1.	-	73.	64	2.	4	-	1.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Continued)

Civilian Cases Removed to Isolation Hospital

Scarlet Fever 16 Puerperal Pyrexia 1 Diphtheria 12

All premises were inspected and particulars taken. The premises and bedding were disinfected.

Number of the above cases of Diphtheria who had been Immunised and those not immunised.

Age Group	Immunised	Not Immunised.
0 - 5	-	1
5 - 15	2	7
over 15	-	2

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria during the year was 39, of this total 7 were of the 5 - 15 groups and 32 of the 0 - 5 group. The percentage of immunised children in the area is 89 per cent, in the 5 - 15 group, and 60 per cent in the 0 - 5 group.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 3 cases of Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary notified during the year.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Male	1	1
Female	2	2

Two deaths were registered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1 Male and 1 Female - both adults.

Two cases are in receipt of Maintenance Allowances under the Ministry of Health Scheme.

The Service is administered by the Durham County Council.

VENEREAL DISEASES

This Service is also administered by the County Council.

SECTION B. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health :-
C. A. O'Neill, M.B. CH.B., B.A.O.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. From 1st. April.
J.D. Collins, M.R.S.I., A.R. San.I., M.S.I.A. Certified Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector - Returned from H.M. Forces June 10th.
R.E. Dunn, M.R.I.A. A.R. San. I., Certified Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector.
Chief Clerk and General Assistant :-
F.H. Hurworth.
General Clerk :-
Miss V.M. Wilkinson. (Temporary).

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES, WATER SUPPLY, SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

WATER.

1. No samples of water for chemical and bacteriological examination have been taken by the Council from the Tees Valley Water Board or the Durham County Water Board. No complaint has been received regarding the quality of the water, as regular sampling for the purposes of analysis is carried out by these public bodies.

2. The water supply to the major part of the Rural District is by public mains(within the statutory areas of the Tees Valley Water Board and the Durham County Water Board) and has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. However, there are parts of the area which have an unsatisfactory supply both in quality and quantity, as follows :- Houghton le Side, Houghton Bank, Great Stainton, Walworth Castle, and Walworth Gate, also several isolated farms.

3. As previously reported (1944) no waters within the area of the Rural District are known to have plumbo-solvent action.

4. There has been no significant effect on the percentages or proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public water mains to that reported in 1944.

IMPROVEMENTS

The Hamlet of Archdeacon Newton comprised of three farms and six hinds cottages all owned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were supplied by a branch main from the Tees Valley Water Board supply.

Four cottages at Travellers Rest, Aycliffe were supplied by the Durham County Water Board.

As a result of an unsatisfactory sample taken at Redworth a stand pipe was provided until such times as the owner is able to provide a piped supply to each house.

PROPOSED SCHEMES.

Samples of the water at Bishopton proved unsatisfactory on analysis, and it was recommended that the owners be approached to take a tapping from the public main which runs through the village

No further development took place in the proposal to provide a piped water supply to the villages of Great Stainton, Houghton le Side and the district of Houghton Bank, except that particulars of the schemes and estimates are being reconsidered and are to be submitted to the County Council and the Ministry of Health under the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, to find out what grant is available.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL
General

During the year one or two complaints of an unsatisfactoey effluent from the Council's Sewage Disposal Works were made. This occurred at Hurworth Place, and was due to a breakdown of the pumping plant. The condition of several of the Council's sewers and sewage disposal works is unsatisfactory and it is proposed that particulars and estimates be got out for submission under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, so as to find out what grant might be obtained.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Extension and improvement to the sewage disposal works attached to the Mental Home at School Aycliffe have been completed by the County Council.

The construction of a small sewage disposal works to deal with the sewage from Heighington Railway Station and Railway Cottages has been completed.

RIVERS AND STREAMS
RIBER POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT.
River Skerne.

The Couty Council reports indicate that the condition of the River Skerne has been maintained and classified as good.

Tiver Tees.

The County Council reports indicate that this river has been the subject of routine inspections; pollution has been observed, due largely to heavy flood periods, overhauling, cleaning of

sewage tanks etc.

The Durham County Council report indicates that apart from the above, a complaint of pollution by oil and sullage effluents was received and investigated in connection with Low Goosepool Farm, Middleton St George (Aerodrome Site). After samples had been taken and the results forwarded to the Superintendent Engineer, works are in progress for altering and overhauling the drainage system of the camp to ensure that the cause of the pollution is remedied.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In view of the increased cost of labour and materials the Council decided to increase their maximum grant of £5 to £12.10s. During the year 5 ash closets and 3 privy middens were converted into water closets under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The owners of the property concerned received grants according to the cost.

During the year, the Council paid £40 for conversions.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging is in force in the following districts :-

Low Coniscliffe,	Aycliffe	Middleton One Row
Merrybent	Coatham Mundeville	Neasham
High Coniscliffe	Brafferton	Low Dinsdale
Piercebridge	Sadberge	Goosepool
Summerhouse	Little Stainton	Low Middleton
Killerby	Great Burdon	Sockburn
Heighington	Whessoe	Hurworth
Redworth	Middleton St George	Hurworth Place
School Aycliffe	Great Stainton	Blackwell

This work is carried out by direct labour, the Council owning

(1) Morris 30 cwts. vehicle (first registered March, 1935).
(2) Vulcan 2 ton vehicle (first registered January, 1935).

Wet scavenging (i.e. Cess Pool emptying) is carried out in the following Parishes where the Council are responsible for the maintenance, repair and emptying of certain cess pools.

Piercebridge	Whessoe	Middleton St George
Aycliffe	Beacon Hill	Sadberge.
	Great Burdon	

In all cases this work is done by direct labour, the Council employing a team of five men, all are continously emplyed emptying cess pools, scraping and flushing sewers and generally attending to the Council's sewage works.

An old vehicle used during the war years for A.R.P. purposes has been renovated and is available for general emergency needs.

SALVAGE

At the request of the Ministry of Supply, a scheme for recoverable materials was put into operation during the war years. This year the following materials have been salvaged and sold:

	Quantity			Price		
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	£	S	D
Scrap Metal	12	9	2	19	18	3
Tins	35	8	0	35	8	0
Bones	2	0	2	10	12	8
Textiles	8	3	2	46	4	6
Waste Paper	27	4	1	169	2	11
Rubber	-	-	-	-	-	-
	85	5	3	£281	6	4

Last year's total amounted to £312. 4s. 4d.

An order has been made for the purchse of a new Bedford refuse and salvage vehicle to replace the Morris vehicle.

One of the Council's vehicles is utilised by Croft Rural District Council for the collection of refuse and salvage in the Parish of Croft, for a period of three days in each six weeks.

SANITARY INSPECTION

Summary of Inspections and Re-Inspections under the Public Health Acts.	No. of visits.	No. of informal notices served.	No. of informal notices remedied.
Water Supplies	14	4	4
Defective Yard Paving	6	2	2
Housing Inspections	69	19	12
Ash Pits and Privies	10	6	4
Deposits of Refuse	2	1	1
Wtaer Closets	6	1	1
Dairies	22	14	6
Cow Sheds	20	11	5
Drainage	28	9	9
Dangerous Buildings	3	1	1
	180	68	45

No. of General Inspections and Visits	
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	35
Factories	6
Shops	4
Water Supplies	100
New Foundations	10
Buildings in Course of Construction	27
Drains Tested and Inspected	44
Properties Inspected on Completion	9
Council Houses	20
Miscellaneous	85
	250

DISINFESTATION

2 Cases of infestation of vermin were notified and dealt with during the year at owners expense.

SCHOOLS

An examination of the sanitary circumstances in connection with the County Council School at Blackwell was carried out.

The County Council Education Committee and the Education Authority were advised of the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing but we have been unable to obtain any improvement. It is hoped that our representations to these bodies will result in satisfactory arrangements being made for dealing with the sewage from this school and the consequent conversion of the pail closets into water carriage.

SECTION D. HOUSING

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Council Houses.

The Construction of 15 houses at Straight Lane, Hurworth was commenced in December of this year. This being part of a proposed scheme for the erection of 47 houses on this estate including 8 houses for aged people.

Sit plans are in course of preparation for Council houses in several parts of the district, and it is hoped that further housing will be commenced in the near future. The list of applications for Council Houses is as follows :-

PARISH	No.
Aycliffe	41
Bishopton	2
Heighington	6
Hurworth	23
Killerby	3

PARISH	No.
Middleton St George	24
Neasham	1
Sadberge	21
Any District	5
Total	126

Grants were paid in respect of the reconditioning of six houses at Archdeacon Newton under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

The giving of grants under this Act has now ceased.

CIVIL BUILDING LICENCES

Commencing in 1943, licencing of building, materials and labour was introduced by the Government through the Ministry of Works and accordingly, Local Authorities were required to issue Essentiality Certificates for repairs or alterations to dwelling houses.

In addition, Local Authorities were required to issue licences for all building work over £10. and under £100, as from 1st. Aug. This has entailed a considerable amount of work, as before a licence can be issued, an individual inspection must be made, the estimate examined, and in some cases the builder or owner interviewed.

During the year 64 applications for building licences were received and dealt with, the licences were issued amounting to £3211. 10. 10.

PLANS AND TOWN PLANNING.

A Planning Scheme for the greater part of the District is in course of prepartion by the South Durham Joint Planning Committee; the Council making all interim decisions after consultation with the executive Officer of the aforementioned Committee. A portion of the District immediately adjacent to Darlington is covered by the Darlington Corporation Planning Scheme, and is directly dealt with by them.

The following list gives the formal applications submitted during the year.

	Approved.	Disapproved.
1. New Houses, Bungalows and Shops	2	-
2. Garages, Sheds and Outbuildings	8	3
3. Alterations, Additions, Conversions	26	-
4. Agricultural Buildings etc.	5	-

PLANS UNDER THE BYELAWS

The following is a list of plans submitted under the Byelaws during the year.

1	New Houses and Bungalows and Shops	2
2	Garages, Sheds Etc.	14
3	Alterations, Additions and Conversions	27
4	Agricultural Buildings Etc.	6
5	Drainage	7

2. HOUSING STATISTICS

In accordance with the instruction received from the Medical Officer of Health a Housing Survey was commenced.

The record of work done under the Housing Act, Etc. during the past year is as follows :-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	93
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	144
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling homes (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925, and Amendment Regulations, 1932	70
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	75
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	61

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of infor,al action by the Local Authority or their Officers	12

Section E INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY

Owing to the shortage of staff and generalpressure of work in the department, we have been unable to carry out the usual routine inspection of cow sheds and dairies in the district.

However, every application for new registration is dealt with by a special visit, and every effort is made to keep a high standard for the production of milk.

The total number of Registered premises is 248. This includes

60 producers of Accredited Milk and 2 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk, One Supplementary licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and two Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk were issued.

The total number od cow sheds and dairies inspected during the year were 31; of these 9 were for registration under the Milk (Special Designation) Order.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No licences were issued in respect of slaughter houses during the year as none of the slaughter houses are in use under the Government scheme for centralising slaughter houses. The Central Slaughter House for Darlington area is in Park Lane, Darlington, and no complaints have been received from local butchers in connection with this scheme.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

14 Renewal of Licence to Slaughter Animals were granted during the year.

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for food and were voluntarily surrendered:

1cwt.	Flour
125 lbs.	Raisins
19 Cans	Meat & Veg.
1½ stone	Pork
18 lbs.	Jam.